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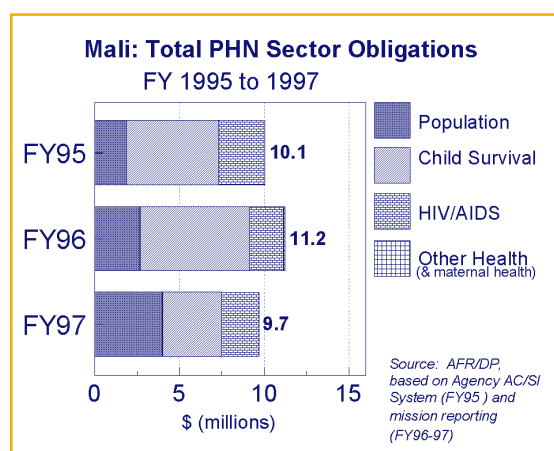
Family Planning and Health Activities in

Mali



Population:	9.4 million (US Census Bureau estimate for 1995)
Infant mortality rate:	123 deaths per 1,000 births (1995/96 DHS)
Adequate nutrition (wt.-for-age):	46% of children age 12–23 mos. (1995/96 DHS)
Total fertility rate:	6.7 children per woman (1995/96 DHS)
Contraceptive prevalence rate:	5.0% (all women/modern methods, 1995/96 DHS)
Demographic and Health Surveys:	1987, 1995/96

USAID/Mali is operating under a country strategic plan for 1996–2002 pursuing the goal: “Mali achieves a level of sustainable political, economic, and social development that eliminates the need for concessional foreign assistance.” The program is a country experimental laboratory for re-engineering for the agency. Agencywide funding trends for family planning and health activities in Mali for 1995–97 are summarized in the figure to the right; in FY 1996, these activities accounted for roughly two-thirds of the \$15.6 million obligated under the mission’s first strategic objective, presented with intermediate results (IRs) below. This objective fully supports the Malian government’s new 10-year plans for health and education, which were developed with USAID collaboration, and is complemented by further mission activities in economic development; information, education, and communication (IEC); and democracy and governance.



Strategic Objective 1: Improve social and economic behaviors among youth (under age 25).

IR 1.1: Improve child survival services for youth ages 0–4 years.

IR 1.2: Increase knowledge of youth ages 5–24 years.

IR 1.3: More responsible reproductive behaviors and productive skills occur among youth ages 15–24 years.

IR 1.4: Improve institutional capacity to provide quality services.

Activities in Family Planning and Health

Young Adult Reproductive Health Services. USAID/Mali supports efforts to improve access to, quality of, and demand for reproductive health services for young adults and adolescents. Technical assistance for community-based distribution (CBD) and social marketing of contraceptives is a central strategic priority. The mission is promoting a partnership between the public and private sectors to ensure contraceptive availability and exploring the possibility of expanding CBD and family planning services through private voluntary organizations (PVOs). USAID assistance has also worked toward the development of reproductive health norms and procedures for community health centers and CBD agents, preservice training curricula, and national training and IEC strategies and action plans. The mission also supports the advancement of syndromic treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the public and private sectors. Behavior change programs supported by USAID/Mali are designed to improve awareness, case management, and prevention of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), and other STIs. Future activities will address development of nonformal sector outreach programs, including peer counseling, youth centers, family life, and school-based service delivery, as well as appropriate operations research to assess impact.

Expansion of Child Survival Activities. USAID/Mali supports the progressive extension of the Ministry of Health’s “Minimum Package of Activities” through training and organizational capacity-building at the community level. Support to the Child Survival Pivot Group, a national consortium of NGOs, as well as other PVOs and local NGOs, serves to strengthen

vaccination services, prenatal and maternity care, family planning, and treatment of sick children and adults. A PVO cofinancing project supports child survival activities by Save the Children/USA in Sikasso, CARE in Segou, Plan International in Sikasso and Mopti, World Vision in Gao and Kidal, Africare in Segou and Tombouctou, World Education in Koulikoro and Bamako, and CEDPA/ASDAP in Koulikoro and Bamako.

The mission supports the development of norms and procedures for improving quality of integrated management of childhood illnesses, advocacy for development and implementation of a national nutrition policy; operations research to help introduce child survival services into community health centers (CSCOM) and to assess overall viability of the CSCOM system; and monitoring and evaluation of child survival interventions by the government of Mali. The mission is also addressing human resource development, health and management information systems, and IEC strategies.

The bilateral program also receives assistance from The Futures Group (social marketing of contraceptives and other commodities), John Snow International (IEC, training, information systems, research and assessments), the Population Council (CBD, operations research), and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (HIV/AIDS/STI program management).

Global Bureau and USAID/Mali Joint Planning Activities

Basic Support for Institutionalizing Child Survival Project is strengthening integrated management of childhood illnesses and working to improve malaria control, vaccination coverage, and childhood nutritional status.

Demographic and Health Surveys helped implement Mali's second DHS in 1995–96 and is assisting in data analysis and training national counterparts in the use of software to analyze data for advocacy and decision-making.

Family Planning Logistics Management conducts logistics management training, follow-up visits to trained personnel, and monitors and coordinates the mission's contraceptive logistic supply activities.

Population Services Fellows Program (University of Michigan) has provided technical assistance through a fellow within the Child Survival Pivot Group, implementing a national family planning and AIDS prevention project.

Johns Hopkins Program for International Education in Reproductive Health seeks to improve access to and quality of reproductive health services by developing preservice reproductive health training curricula, improving infection control in clinic settings, and working to minimize regulatory barriers on youth's access to services.

PRIME/INTRAH has helped develop reproductive health norms and procedures and provided related training for community health centers and is now working on the development of a national health in-service training strategy.

USAID/Bureau for Humanitarian Response, Office of Private & Voluntary Cooperation Child Survival Grantees as of 1998

Islamic African Relief Agency-USA is implementing a program of immunization, nutrition, diarrhea case management, malaria control, safe motherhood, and family planning interventions.

Save the Children Federation is conducting activities in immunization, nutrition, safe motherhood, malaria control, management of diarrheal diseases, and family planning in Bougouni.



This USAID Country Program Brief was prepared for the Human Resources Division, Office of Sustainable Development, USAID Africa Bureau (AFR/SD/HRD), by the Center for International Health Information (CIHI). Questions and comments can be directed to CIHI (info@cihi.com).